

CS 590 NLP

HW1

Regex, Normalization

Due 01/26 11:59 pm

In this homework, you will be creating a dictionary to be used in a simple spell checker program (HW 2) in python. This program will function as follows (note the '>>>' indicate actions from the python shell):

```
>>> process_regex("warofworlds.txt")
Processing file...
Output stored to "regex.txt"

>>> normalize_text("regex.txt")
Normalizing text...
Output stored to "dictionary.txt"
```

Dictionary

The Dictionary will be created by you. This "dictionary" will be composed of words processed from "The War of the Worlds" (<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/36>) (I would suggest the Plain Text UTF-8 file).

Specifically, the book file will be processed (either line by line or the entire body of text at once) and the unique tokens will be stored in some dictionary file for easy retrieval for the spell checker to load in.

To create the dictionary from the text file, you will be leveraging both REGEX and Text Normalization skills.

The dictionary should be created as follows:

1. For the text in the file, use REGEX (find, substitute) to:
 - a. Replace British English spellings for words that have an extra 'u' (colour, neighbour, etc.) with American English spellings (e.g. color, neighbor, etc.).

This should be done with just a few regular expressions. (ie. You should not use a list of british and american words: you will lose points for this).

Note this should only be for those words with American English removes the 'u'. No other differences in spelling need to be addressed. (Be careful about replacing words like 'your'.)

Note that I will not be penalizing you if you don't find them all, but instead just aim to produce a regex which captures as many as you can.

- b. Replace titles (Dr. , Mr., Ms., Mrs.) with appropriate expansions of words (Doctor, Mister, Miss, Misses). Note you only need to replace the listed titles. (You may use lists for this one).
 - c. Output resulting text to additional text file called "regex.txt".
 - d. This should be run by a function called "**process_regex(path_to_text_file)**"
 - e. Write out the logic behind your regex decisions and discoveries to a report. For example, were there words that your regex did not capture that it was? Or does it capture incorrect words? This could also be how you built up the regexes, ("I started with this simple expressions, but it didn't capture x so I augmented it ...")
2. For the text in "regex.txt", normalize it to reduce the number of overall types (unique tokens).
 - a. This is left open for you to do, but most likely will include some lowercasing of words, some splitting of texts, and other cleaning of text discussed in class. **(ie. You need to add more than just lowercase and splitting!)**
 - b. The resulting tokens will result in your dictionary and should be output to a "dictionary.txt" file, where each line is a single word in the dictionary. Note that the dictionary should be sorted alphabetically (as dictionaries usually are).
 - c. This should be run by a function called "**normalize_text("regex.txt")**"
 - d. Write out your normalization decisions and discoveries to the report. E.g. advantages or disadvantages of things you tried.

Additional Rules (MUST BE FOLLOWED):

1. The code should be written in python 3.
2. Standard libraries should only be used for this assignment, ie. I shouldn't have to download extra libraries to run your code.
3. For regex, you can use the "re" library (import re)
(https://www.w3schools.com/python/python_regex.asp)
4. For the regex step, you should only use regex to process the text. That means **NO SPLITTING TEXTS INTO SEPERATE WORDS DURING REGEX STEP!** You should only be processing the texts by using the commands in the re python library (findall, search, sub). (Although regex has a split() option, sub() and findall() are applied to the entire text and therefore are more efficient than splitting and then checking the regex against every separate text).
 - a. Splitting is fine during normalization
 - b. Depending on how you read the file in, you may either read it in line by line or the entire text at once. Either choice is fine.
5. Normalization should be done via "simple" python libraries. (E.g. **you shouldn't be using NLTK to normalize text for you.**) The idea is for you to think through and apply these ideas, just using another library is not actually thinking through the problem.

6. You should make your code modular to the different steps. (e.g. **at least one function for the regex step, at least one function for the normalization step**). (You probably will have more functions to help your main functions)
7. You should only hand in one python file: **USERNAME_HW1.py**.
 - a. I will be able to have my own copy of the text file, so **YOU SHOULDN'T HAND IN THE TEXT FILES**.
 - b. This is also why it is important to create "regex.txt" and "dictionary.txt" for each of the aforementioned steps.
8. You should be adding comments to document your code. **If I can't understand why you perform an action, then I can't credit you for performing that action.**
9. The report should be readable and reference your code, **without explicitly including code.**

Report

The reports for the homeworks are necessary to communicate your learning and thinking through of the material. Examples of good reports can be found on brightspace under Homeworks/Examples/. Note that your report style may differ, but it is a good reference to start with.

Grading

Assignment will be graded as follows:

Description	Points
Code Runs	5
Regex Implementation	10
Normalization Implementation	10
Report	15
Documentation/Code (Comments, functions, etc)	10
Total:	50

- **If the code does not run, I cannot grade it well.** (More points than 5 can be lost if the code cannot be run, as I will not be able to fully test the implementations of the other functions).
- Note that the normalization implementation is the most subjective between students. Here I will be looking for thoughtfulness beyond simply splitting the texts. It would be wise to add in description for normalization steps ("# to capture words that end with ...") as this will help me understand your thought process as well.
- **Breaking of the additional rules can result in applied penalties.** (Always make sure you are checking against the rules)

Suggestions

- **Documentation and a good report is key for showing your effort in this homework.** Make sure you are noting why you make certain decisions all throughout your code and report.
- The slides for previous classes are posted, so please refer to these and the book for ideas during implementation.
- Start simple, build up complexity. You should always make sure your new ideas being added do not cause your program to crash. So, starting simple is the best way to a) maintain the ability to keep your code running, b) add in comments for documentation and thought process as you add more code.
- Regexpal.com can be useful to test ideas for the regex step.
- Work through the homework yourself, rather than sharing ideas (especially not code) with other students. **As a reminder, plagiarism (or sharing) of code is strictly prohibited.** This assignment is complex enough that significant overlap between students will be suspicious.
- If you have not worked with python before, w3schools can help you translate your previous coding experience to python (<https://www.w3schools.com/python/default.asp>)
- Stop by office hours to discuss ideas. I am always happy to help you think through your process!